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## 硕 士 学 位 论 文

### Quality Standard in Interpreting

#### 口译质量标准

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## Synopsis

In this thesis, the author sustains an analysis of interpreting quality from the perspective of communication, grounded on the standpoint that interpreting quality relies on a set of communication variables. Based on L.E. Sarbaugh's communication taxonomy, in which 7 key variables are labeled, a map featuring all attainable interpreting sets and communication levels is thus devised. Along with the basic criteria of interpreting, the Quality Standard Model is contrived and applied to assess interpreting quality.

This thesis starts with an introduction in which the background and outline of the whole thesis are given, which is followed by four chapters and a conclusion, in which the major achievements and limitations faced are pointed out.

Chapter One reviews the research on interpreting quality in an all-round way and comes to justify the necessity of researching quality from the perspective of communication. A diachronic look at the history of interpreting research covers two generations in the West and a shorter time of development in China. The quality research comes into being during the second generation in the West and now remains as one of the five main themes in a wide range. The research on interpreting quality focuses on various aspects of quality: quality as aspiration, quality as expectation and quality as variables. Features of the research evolve from being impressionist, theoretical and single-layered to being objective, empirical, and multi-perspective. The current tendency is to research interpreting quality in an interdisciplinary way towards the completion of corpus. To meet the demand, a communication-conscious analysis is thus required.

A detailed analysis of interpreting and communication is provided in Chapter Two. Firstly an introduction to interpreting contains its types, components, models and makes clear its features as communication. Then a thorough comparison between interpreting and translation is made to further demonstrate interpreting as interlingual and intercultural communication. Afterwards, the study on the basic components of communication lends strong support to the author's claim that quality standard should be viewed from communication. By introducing the Relevance Theory, the author establishes the relationship between communication and quality, as expressed in the formula:

Processing effort = contextual effect  $\div$  relevance. Given that the contextual effect is fixed, the more relevant, the smaller processing effort interpreters need to produce quality interpreting. Since more relevance corresponds to more smoothness and efficiency in communication, communication has a determining role in the assessment of interpreting quality. Finally, elaboration on the features of standard paves the way for the establishment of the Quality Standard Model.

Chapter Three embodies the Quality Standard Model. L.E. Sarbaugh selects seven key variables in categorizing communication: number of persons involved in the communication (NP); type of channels used (CH); perceived relationship among the participants (PR); perceived intent of the communicators (PI); code systems (CS); normative patterns of beliefs and overt behaviors (NBOB); world view (WV). On the premise that interpreting is a special kind of communication, a map of interpreting variables is drawn and the communication taxonomy of interpreting is constructed. 72 sets of communication are divided by 8 levels of communication. On this basis, the author proposes the Quality Standard Model: Standard = R(Communication Level)  $\times$  B. Two cases are presented, in which this model is applied, so as to justify the credibility of this model.

Chapter Four expounds the implications elicited from the Quality Standard Model, concerning quality assessment by different stakeholders in the professional setting and classroom training. With this model, comparison between quality assessments of a variety of interpreting acts is thereby possible and tenable.

**Key Words:** interpreting quality; standard; communication.



## 摘要

基于口译质量依赖于交际变量的观点,本文作者从交际角度分析口译质量,以 L.E. Sarbaugh 的交际分类法为依准,提出涵盖所有口译分类和交际水平的全景图。结合口译的基本标准和交际变量,作者提出一个质量标准模式,应用于口译质量评估。

本文开篇是介绍背景和框架的一段引言,随之四个章节论述。结尾指出本文的意义和存在的局限。

第一章全面回顾口译质量研究,进而论证了从交际角度研究口译质量的必要性。口译研究在西方经历了两代的发展,在中国发展历史稍短。口译质量始于西方口译研究第二代,是当前口译研究中五个主题之一。口译质量研究着重于质量的三个方面:作为愿景的质量,作为期望的质量和作为变量的质量。口译质量研究经历了三个转变:从印象到客观,从理论到实证,从单一角度到多视角。当前的研究趋势是交叉学科研究,以期完成研究资料的整合。应以趋势,有必要从交际角度对口译质量进行分析。

第二章更加详尽地分析了口译和交际。首先介绍了口译种类,成分和模式,突出口译的交际特征。继而通过口译和笔译的比较,进一步表明作为跨语言和文化交际的口译。交际的基本成分指明从交际角度论证口译质量的可能性。关联理论为交际和质量的关系构建作了铺垫,具体体现在该公式:处理精力=上下文影响÷相关性。在上下文影响一定的情况下,越相关,译员产出高质量口译需要的精力越少。相关性对应交际的顺畅和效率。由此可知,交际在评估口译质量中扮演一个重要作用。最后,关于标准特征的研究为质量标准模式的构建进一步做铺垫。

第三章具体阐述质量标准模式。L.E. Sarbaugh 提出 7 个重点变量进行交际分类:参与交际的人数(NP);渠道类型(CH);参与者关系(PR);交际者目的(PI);符号系统(CS);信仰准则和外在表现(NBOB);世界观(WV)。作为交际的一种,作者绘制了包含所有口译变量和交际水平的分类图:72 个交际场景,8 种交际水平。由此作者提出质量标准模式:标准=R(交际水平)×B。并将此模式应用

于两个例子。

第四章阐述质量标准模式对质量评估的启示，包括对不同评估者的启示以及对职业口译和课堂口译训练的启示。应用该质量标准模式，不同的口译质量评估之间进行比较将更加可行可信。

**关键词：**口译质量；标准；交际

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